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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 7 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The escalation of deadly violence and terror being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people compels me to write to you again today to urgently draw the attention of the international community to this dangerous situation. In grave violation of the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant human rights provisions, for over three weeks, the occupying Power has been carrying out a series of military assaults, including air strikes, against civilians and civilian areas that have led to the killing of at least 25 Palestinians, including three children, and the wounding of at least 250 civilians, including women and children, many who remain in serious condition. The extremely fragile situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, is rapidly worsening and risks further destabilization as a result of this Israeli aggression and the incessant illegal actions being perpetrated against the Palestinian civilian population, including the unrelenting incitement by Israeli government officials as well as violence and terror by the occupying forces, settlers and other extremists.

The Palestinian death toll continues to rise as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to traumatize and terrorize the more than 1.7 million Palestinians living in the besieged Gaza Strip. Since 12 June 2014, the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip have had to endure nearly nightly military air raids. Between yesterday and today, Israeli occupying forces killed nine Palestinians and injured many others, including two teenage girls and a child, in airstrikes launched across the Gaza Strip. The continuous climb in the number of casualties is reflective of Israel's ongoing bloody onslaught against the Palestinian population in the Occupied Gaza Strip, in complete disregard and violation of all norms and rules of international humanitarian and human rights law.

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Moreover, in our letter dated 2 July 2014, we referred to the intensifying acts of terror and racist hate crimes being perpetrated by illegal Israeli settlers as well as other Israeli extremists against Palestinian civilians, including children. In this regard, we must reiterate our condemnation in the strongest terms of the kidnapping, torture and burning of Mohammed Abu Khdeir by terrorist Israeli settlers. Since then, more information has become available regarding the cruel murder of young Mohammed, including post-mortem findings of soot deposits in his lungs that prove Mohammed was still alive when he was set on fire. The examination also found that burns covered 90 per cent of his small body. The Palestinian leadership holds the Israeli government responsible for this atrocious crime and the culture of impunity in which Israeli settler terrorists have so vilely and continuously assaulted Palestinian civilians and properties over the years. The Palestinian leadership calls for a speedy, independent, transparent and credible investigation into the murder of Mohammed and calls for the perpetrators of this terrorist crime to be held fully accountable and brought to justice.

In this connection, we must also bring to your attention the brutal beating by Israeli occupying forces of Palestinian-American Tariq Abu Khdeir (age 15), a cousin of Mohammed, on 2 July 2014. Tariq was outside his murdered cousin's home in the neighbourhood of Shufaat, in Occupied East Jerusalem, when he was taken by the occupying forces, the so-called "Israeli border police". Two videos of the horrific incident were posted online and show the Israeli forces repeatedly hitting Tariq, who was cuffed and lying on the floor. In the video, one of the so-called border police was shown kicking and punching Tariq in the face and the head while another sat on top of him. Tariq was then dragged away completely unconscious. A seriously injured Tariq was denied medical care for five hours and held without charge until yesterday, and then was placed under house arrest. This type of excessive, indiscriminate and brutal force has become the norm of the occupying Power, as hundreds of innocent Palestinians have met the same fate as Tariq, the only difference being that the vicious beating of Tariq was captured on camera for the entire world to witness the brutality of the occupying Power. We call also for a transparent, credible investigation into the beating of Tariq and call for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

At the same time, indiscriminate force continues to be unleashed by the occupying forces against Palestinian civilian protesters throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and has intensified in the period following the burial of Mohammed Abu Kdheir. In this regard, more than 60 Palestinians were injured during protests in Occupied East Jerusalem, in addition to 200 other Palestinians who were injured in other parts of the Occupied State of Palestine, including in and around the refugee camps in Al-Khalil. In this regard, Israeli occupying forces routinely fire tear gas, stun grenades, rubber-coated metal bullets and live ammunition at the protestors, causing dozens of injuries, many critical.

Moreover, extremist settlers, who have received encouragement from Israeli political figures and government officials, continue their escalation of attacks and their campaign of terror, violence and provocation against the Palestinian civilian population. Following the kidnapping and the burning alive of Mohammed, Israeli settlers continue to run rampant throughout Palestine with the tacit support of the Israeli government, whose armed forces guard these settler militias as they commit their crimes against defenceless Palestinian civilians, with over 130 attacks by settlers recorded in just the past 10 days.

In this connection, on 5 July 2014, 22-year-old Tariq Ziad Zuhdi Adeli was abducted by settlers near Nablus in the northern West Bank. The terrorist settlers drove Tariq to a remote area, attacked him with a hatchet and left him bleeding and severely injured. On that same day, Israeli settlers attacked the car of a Christian Palestinian cleric with rocks and iron bars near Ramallah, and more than 50 terrorist settlers also rampaged through Sheikh Jarrah in Occupied East Jerusalem, assaulting Palestinians and vandalizing homes.

At the same time, since 12 June, Israeli occupying forces have conducted 800 violent military raids on Palestinian homes, villages, towns and cities across the West Bank, arresting and detaining hundreds of Palestinians. At least 850 Palestinians have been arrested since 12 June, including 60 prisoners released in the exchange deal of 2011 and 12 members of the Palestinian Parliament, bringing the number of imprisoned Palestinian parliamentarians to 22. Around 170 of the Palestinians who were arrested during this period are now being held under administrative detention, the worst form of arbitrary detention, bringing the number of Palestinians being held under administrative detention to over 350 out of a total of nearly 6,000 Palestinians being held in Israeli jails and detention centres. We call for the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

As more innocent Palestinians, including children and women, continue to be killed with no end in sight, as Israel continues its military attacks and measures of collective punishment and its terrorist settlers continue to commit atrocities against the Palestinian civilian population, the international community must do all in its power to compel Israel to immediately cease all of its military aggression and scrupulously abide by all of its obligations as the occupying Power, under international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949. In this regard, we continue to call upon the international community to ensure immediate protection for the Palestinian civilian population in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and in recognition of the fact that Israel, the occupying Power, has abdicated this responsibility. Specifically, we call upon the Security Council to fulfil its duties in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and take concrete measures to end Israeli aggression against our people. The international community cannot allow the occupying Power or its illegal settlers to continue to act with such flagrant impunity and disrespect for the law, which has resulted in widespread death, injury and suffering among the defenceless Palestinian civilian population, and which if not stopped will surely lead to much more senseless bloodshed.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 502 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 3 July 2014 (A/ES-10/635-S/2014/471) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 8 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The situation on the ground in Occupied Palestine is deteriorating at an alarming rate owing to the escalation of Israel's latest campaign of military aggression, which began on 12 June 2014, against the Palestinian people. In particular, the occupying Power has intensified its onslaught against the besieged Gaza Strip, in grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law and the relevant provisions regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict, and in grave breach of the prohibition of reprisals and collective punishment against the civilian population under occupation.

Palestinian civilian casualties are tragically mounting as a result of this brutal and criminal Israeli onslaught. Since my letter to you yesterday, the occupying Power has launched more than 150 military airstrikes deliberately targeting civilian areas in the Gaza Strip, killing at least 22 Palestinians and injuring more than 100 civilians, including women, children and the elderly. The intensification of Israel's aggression against the 1.7 million Palestinians imprisoned in the Gaza Strip by Israel's immoral blockade threatens to further destabilize the dangerous situation on the ground and fully ignite yet another round of deadly violence.

Today, 8 July 2014, Israeli jets and naval gunfire struck at several civilian areas in Gaza, bringing life to a standstill and deepening fear and panic among the already-traumatized Palestinian civilian population. The destructive, lethal attacks by the occupying Power have been widespread, targeting many homes and civilian infrastructure in areas all over Gaza. Among the dead in the past 24 hours were six children, two of them under five years of age, in addition to a 13-year-old child and a 14-year-old child. Also among those killed were: Mohammed Habib and his 19-year-old son, Mousa, who were killed after an airstrike hit a vehicle in the Al-Shujaiyeh neighbourhood, in Gaza City, and Fakri Saleh Ajjouri, who was killed after an airstrike on his motorcycle near Abraj Al-Sheikh Zayed, in the northern

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Gaza Strip. Abduallah Kaware, Mohammad Ashour (age 13), Riyad Kaware, Mahmoud Judeh, Bakir Mahmoud Judeh (age 22), Amaar Mohammad Judeh (age 22) and Hussein Mohammad Kaware (age 14) were also all brutally murdered when an Israeli rocket obliterated their home.

Further escalation of this inhumane military aggression by the occupying Power against the Gaza Strip will only ensure the loss of more innocent civilian lives among the occupied and defenceless Palestinian population. Statements by Israeli officials, including the Prime Minister of Israel, who stated that the military operation against Gaza would be expanded, including a possible ground invasion into Gaza, reveal the true intention of the occupying Power to intensify the military aggression and plunge the area into another deadly and destructive cycle of violence. In this regard, I must draw attention to the fact that Israeli occupying forces, including tanks, trucks, armoured vehicles, bulldozers and buses, are amassing near the Gaza border, and 40,000 so-called Israeli reservists have been mobilized. Clearly, the situation before us demands the attention of the international community, particularly the Security Council, which is duty-bound to act to maintain international peace and security and, in accordance with international humanitarian law, ensure protection for the Palestinian people under this savage military occupation.

We thus reiterate our urgent appeal to the Security Council to uphold its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and undertake the necessary action to bring an end to this Israeli aggression and to protect the Palestinian civilian population. What is being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people constitutes a grave breach of all norms of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the wilful killing of civilians and reprisals against the civilian population by the occupying Power. War crimes are clearly being perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people and this must be unequivocally condemned and stopped. A strong message must be sent to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease immediately its military campaign and abide by the law, in order to de-escalate this dangerous situation, to promote calm, and, most importantly, to save innocent civilian lives.

This letter is in follow-up to our 503 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 July 2014 (A/ES-10/636-S/2014/473), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Tenth emergency special session
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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 9 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Today I write this letter to urgently appeal and call for international protection for the Palestinian people from the wrath of Israel's brutal and criminal military onslaught throughout the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. With rampant impunity, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to intensify its assaults against the besieged Gaza Strip, killing, wounding and maiming Palestinian civilians. Entire families and innocent children are being killed in their homes and in the streets, and houses are being destroyed atop civilians, who have nowhere to be safe from the Israeli aggression. The Palestinian death toll thus continues to rise, with at least 50 Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since Monday, 7 July, and more than 450 Palestinians, hundreds of them children, injured.

Today, 9 July, Israel, the occupying Power, launched another 160 airstrikes against civilian areas in Gaza, killing at least 21 Palestinians, including an elderly man, women and eight children, among them a 1-year-old, a 2-year-old, a 14-year-old and a 16-year-old. It has been reported that an Israeli airstrike on the Al-Maghazi refugee camp killed a family of three Palestine refugees, two children and their mother, and reports indicate that two other children are missing as a result of the same attack and are probably trapped under the rubble. In this regard, with refugees constituting the majority of the population in Gaza, where there are eight refugee camps, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has declared a state of emergency owing to the escalation of violence. In addition to those mentioned above, the following are the names of just some of the Palestinians killed today:

- Abdel Nasser Abu Kwaik (age 60) and his son Khaled Abu Kwaik (age 29) were killed in an airstrike on the al-Nuseirat camp;
- A woman, Nayfa Farajallah, was killed in an airstrike on Al-Mughraqa, south of Gaza City;

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- Rafiq Al-Kafarna (age 30) was killed when warplanes hit his motorcycle in Beit Lahia in north Gaza;
- Abdel Hadi Al-Soufi (age 24) was killed in the Al-Sheukeh neighbourhood in the southern Gaza Strip;
- Hatem Mohammed Abu Salem (age 25) was killed in a strike on his home in Beit Hanoun;
- A baby girl, Raneem Abdel Ghafour (age 1), was killed in an airstrike on her home in Al-Qarara north of Khan Younis;
- A small boy, Mohammed Malakeh (age 2), along with his mother, Hanaa' Malakeh, as well as Hatim Abu Salim were killed in an airstrike on their home in the Al-Zaitoun neighbourhood, southeast of Gaza City;
- Saher Hamdan (age 40) and her son Ibrahim (age 14) were killed in a strike on their home in Beit Hanoun;
- A mother from the Al-Nawasreh family and her two children were killed in an Israeli raid of their home in the Al-Mughazi camp;
- An entire family, Hafiz Mohammed Hamad (age 30), Ibrahim Mohammed Hamad (age 26), Mahdi Mohammed Hamad (age 46), Fawzia Khalil Hamad (age 62), Mehdi Hamad (age 16) and Suha Hamad (age 25), was killed in an airstrike on the family's home in Beit Hanoun, in the northern Gaza Strip;
- Hani Saleh Hamad (in his sixties) and his son Ibrahim (in his twenties) were killed in an airstrike on their home;
- An elderly woman, Salmiyya Al-Arja, and a child, Miryam Al-Arja, were killed in a strike on Rafah.

As more horrific reports pour in, the Palestinian leadership condemns in the strongest terms these war crimes and the State terrorism being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the defenceless and unprotected Palestinian civilian population under its occupation. It should be recalled that article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention defines grave breaches as, inter alia, the wilful killing and inhuman treatment of protected persons; wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health of protected persons; and extensive destruction of property, carried out unlawfully and wantonly.

In addition to attacks on civilians, Israel has also bombed vital civilian infrastructure in Gaza. This includes the targeting of a sewage plant, which serves the Al-Shati refugee camp, the Tel Al-Hawa neighbourhood, Sheikh Ajlin and western Gaza City, and pumps 25,000 m^3 of wastewater daily to the public treatment plant. Israeli warplanes also bombed the waterline that provides water for the Al-Shati camp and serves more than 70,000 people. With water and wastewater infrastructure already under severe strain in the besieged Gaza Strip owing to the severe Israeli restrictions on the entry of construction materials necessary for repair and maintenance, the dire humanitarian conditions are worsening for the 1.7 million Palestinians living under Israel's occupation and imprisoned as a result of its illegal blockade of Gaza.

Moreover, Israeli reprisals against the Palestinian people continue in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where the occupying forces continue to use

excessive force against civilians, causing death and injury to scores of Palestinians. I am compelled to further draw the international community's attention to the continuation of illegal actions by extremist and terrorist settlers that the occupying Power has illegally transferred to Palestinian land, in violation of international law, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Israeli settlers continue their hate-filled terror rampages, persisting with attacks on Palestinian civilians and the destruction of property. We condemn all of these crimes and reiterate that Israel, the occupying Power, is responsible for the actions of its settlers in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, and that there must be accountability for their crimes.

As the situation on the ground grows more dire as a result of Israel's deliberate intent to spill more blood of innocent Palestinians, including children, we reiterate our urgent call to the Security Council to uphold its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and undertake the necessary action to bring an end to this Israeli aggression and to protect the Palestinian civilian population from this murderous and criminal rampage. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for its deliberate violations of international law and international humanitarian law, including its practice of extrajudicial executions and measures of collective punishment, and must be reined in by the international community. In this connection, the international community, in particular the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, is also duty-bound to ensure compliance by the occupying Power with the Convention, and cannot continue to sit idly by while Israel continues its crimes against the Palestinian people that it has occupied for 47 years.

We thus call for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to immediately consider this crisis situation and to act collectively to bring a halt to Israel's aggression and collective punishment of the Palestinian people throughout Occupied Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where at this moment the criminal, brutal Israeli onslaught is killing and maiming innocent Palestinian civilians.

This letter is in follow-up to our 504 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 8 July 2014 (A/ES-10/637-S/2014/479), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 11 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Over the past 48 hours, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued with its savage military campaign against the Palestinian civilian population in the besieged Gaza Strip, wreaking ever more havoc, death and destruction and declaring the intention to continue attacks, thereby endangering many more innocent lives. We condemn in the strongest terms this barbaric Israeli aggression and the continued perpetration of State terror against the Palestinian people. We reiterate our call for immediate protection for the Palestinian civilian population from this murderous and criminal Israeli rampage.

Since my previous letter, dated 9 July, the Israeli occupying forces have carried out hundreds more bombings and missile strikes targeting hundreds of locations in Gaza. Reports indicate that, since the start of this aggression, more than 100 Palestinians have been killed. This lethal campaign has also wounded over 700 other Palestinians, with some critically wounded and struggling for their lives. The casualties have tragically included dozens of children, among them many under the age of 5, women and the elderly, and many members of the same families as well as the killing of entire families. The following are just some of the names of the Palestinians brutally and wilfully murdered by the occupying Power over the past 48 hours:

Salem Qandeel, Amer Al-Fayouni and Bahaa Abu Elail were killed by a strike on their car north of Gaza City

Mahmoud Al-Haj, Tariq Saad Al-Haj, Saad Mahmoud Al-Haj, Omar Al-Haj, Najla Mahmoud Al-Haj and Amina Al-Haj — all from the same family — were killed by an airstrike on their home west of Khan Younis

Raed Shalat (age 30) was killed by an airstrike on his home in Al-Nuseirat camp, which also injured his wife and their three children

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Ibrahim Khalil Qanan (age 24) and his brother Mohammed Khalil Qanan (age 25), Ibrahim Swali (age 33) and his brother Mohammed Swali (age 28), Salem Al-Astal (age 55) and Mohammed Al-Ackad (age 24) were killed by an Israeli airstrike on a crowd that had gathered at a beach café in Khan Younis

Abdullah Abu Ghazl (age 4) was killed and his brother injured by an Israeli airstrike on their home in the Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza

Hussein Abu Jamei (age 57) and his son Ismail (age 19) were killed by a strike on their home in Khan Younis

Mohammed Ihsan Farawneh (age 19) was killed in an airstrike in Khan Younis

Mahmoud Wloud, Hazem Baalousha and Alaa Abdel Nabi were all killed by an airstrike on their car in Al-Saftawi neighbourhood in the northern Gaza Strip

Yasmeen Al-Mutaweq (age 4) was killed by an airstrike in the southern Gaza Strip

Ahmed Zaher Hamdan (age 22) died days later of injuries he sustained in an Israeli airstrike

Mohammed Al-Kahlout was killed in an airstrike east of Jabaliya refugee camp

Sami Adnan Shildan (age 25) was killed in an airstrike on Al-Zaitoun neighbourhood of Gaza City

Shahd Helmi Al-Qarnawi (age 5) died days later of injuries she sustained in an Israeli airstrike

Abdel Halim Ashra (age 54) was found under the rubble of his home, which was hit by an Israeli war plane in Deir Al-Balah

Abdallah Abu Mahrouq died of injuries he sustained during an Israeli strike yesterday, 10 July, while he was on his motorcycle in Deir Al-Balah

Anas Rizq Abu Al-Kas (age 30) was killed in a strike on Burj Tal Al-Hawa, west of Gaza City

Adnan Salem Al-Ashhab (age 40) was killed in a strike south of Gaza City

Mazen Aslan and Shahraman Abu Al-Kas were killed in a strike in Al-Breij camp in central Gaza

Mohammed Rabii Abu Hmaidan (age 65) was killed by an airstrike in Beit Lahia

Wisam Abdel Razeq Ghannam (age 23), Mahmoud Abdel Razeq Ghannam, Kifah Shehada (age 20), Ghalia Deeb Ghannam (age 7) and Mohammed Mounir Ashour (age 25) were all killed by a strike on their home in Rafah

Nour Marwan Al-Najdi (age 10) was killed by an airstrike on Al-Nahda neighbourhood in Rafah

Saber Sukkar (age 80) and Hussein Mohammed Al-Mamlouk (age 47) died of injuries sustained in an Israeli airstrike on Al-Shujaiah neighbourhood in Gaza City

For all of these heinous crimes against the Palestinian people, Israel must be held fully accountable and justice must be achieved for the victims. The failure to do so will only embolden Israel's impunity, further exacerbating this conflict and deepening the already-grave suffering of the Palestinian people under this illegitimate occupation. In this connection, we reiterate our urgent call on the international community to act collectively and responsibly to address this crisis. The duties of the international community, including the Security Council, are clear and must be respected and upheld. International law, including humanitarian and human rights law, must be upheld and must not be allowed to be so flagrantly dismissed without consequence. Immediate action must be undertaken in particular by the Security Council in accordance with its Charter authority to bring a halt to Israel's onslaught against the Palestinian people and to extinguish the flames of this most recent deadly cycle of violence that has already claimed too many innocent civilian lives.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 505 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 9 July 2014 (A/ES-10/638-S/2014/483), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 14 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to you to reiterate our urgent appeal that all possible measures be taken by the international community to provide immediate protection to the Palestinian civilian population throughout the entire Occupied State of Palestine, especially in the besieged Gaza Strip, against the ongoing savagery and military aggression being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power. The numbers and facts surrounding Israel's latest war crimes and acts of State terrorism against the Palestinian people are beyond alarming.

In this regard, since 7 July 2014, Israel, the occupying Power, has brutally killed at least 184 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip alone; more than 70 have been killed in the period since my last letter to you, dated 11 July, and since the clear call by the Security Council on 12 July for a ceasefire and for respect of international humanitarian law, including through the protection of civilians. Reports indicate that, of the Palestinians brutally murdered by the occupying forces, 39 were children, 24 were women, 13 were elderly persons and 3 were disabled persons. The occupying Power has also caused deliberate and serious injury to more than 1,300 Palestinians, including hundreds of children and women, many suffering permanent injury and many in critical condition and struggling to live. Relevant institutions are also reporting that at least 25,000 Palestinian children are in need of immediate psychosocial support owing to the horrors and tragedies they have witnessed over the past week. The grave violations of human rights instruments by Israel, the occupying Power, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Israel is a signatory, are too numerous to list in this letter.

The Israeli assaults are also causing vast physical destruction, as the occupying forces have destroyed or caused serious damage to 940 civilian homes, rendering thousands permanently homeless. Schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), health

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centres, mosques, water and sewage networks, electricity lines and industries have also been targeted by the occupying Power, resulting in two hospitals, three medical clinics, one treatment centre for the disabled, four ambulances and 62 schools damaged by Israeli airstrikes and three mosques completely destroyed. More than 160,000 people have already been displaced, many of whom are seeking safety and shelter in UNRWA schools, and 395,000 people have been affected by the destruction of water and waste infrastructure, gravely compounding the humanitarian crisis and suffering being endured by the Palestinian civilian population.

These figures are widely reflected in the reports of, among others, the agencies of the United Nations, the same organization that Israel, the occupying Power, is a full member of and whose Charter and resolutions it is duty-bound to ensure respect of. Yet, the reality is that Israel acts with complete, systematic and wilful disrespect for the Charter and relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, committing human rights violations and war crimes against the Palestinian people under its occupation with total impunity and barbarism. The historic lack of accountability has no doubt fostered Israel's belief that it is above the law and will suffer no consequences for such crimes. This immoral, unconscionable situation cannot continue. The international community can no longer stand by while the occupying Power commits grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, and human rights law, inflicting trauma, terror, death and destruction on the defenceless Palestinian people. For all of the grave breaches of international law, including war crimes, that it is perpetrating, Israel must be fully held accountable.

Moreover, we underscore the international legal obligation to ensure the protection of civilians, for this obligation has not only been abdicated by Israel, the occupying Power, but is being intentionally, grossly and systematically violated as it continues its military attacks and excessive use of force against unarmed, defenceless civilians throughout the cities, towns and refugee camps of Occupied Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip, exhibiting a cruel disregard for human life and inflicting civilian casualties and widespread suffering, pain and trauma among the Palestinian people.

Rejecting international appeals for a ceasefire, the occupying Power is in fact widening the scope of its attacks, even including a ground invasion into northern Gaza over the weekend. In an act that is clearly a war crime, yesterday, 13 July, 18 members of the Al-Batsh family, including six children and three women, one of them pregnant, were massacred, and 16 other civilians were wounded by the Israeli occupying forces in a deliberately launched military airstrike at a home in the neighbourhood of Tuffah in the Gaza Strip. This gruesome attack, which Israel declared to be targeting Tayseer Al-Batsh, a police chief in Gaza, caused the deaths of Nahed Nai'im Al-Batsh (41), Bahaa Majed Al-Batsh (28), Qusai Issam Al-Batsh (12), Mohammed Issam Al-Batsh (17), Ahmed Nu'man Al-Batsh (27), Yehya Ala Al-Batsh (18), Jalal Majed Al-Batsh (26), Mahmoud Majed Al-Batsh (22), Marwa Majed Al-Batsh (25), Majed Subhi Al-Batsh, Khaled Majed Al-Batsh (20), Ibrahim Majed Al-Batsh (18), Manar Majed Al-Batsh (13), Amal Hasan Al-Batsh (49), Anas Alaa Al-Batsh (10), Qusai Alaa Al-Batsh (20), Zakariya Alaa Al-Batsh and Aziza Youssef Al-Batsh (59).

In another war crime, on Saturday, 12 July 2014, an Israeli airstrike killed two Palestinians in a centre for disabled persons in northern Gaza and seriously

wounded several others. Among the dead were Ola Washahi (31) and Suha Abu Saada (47), both of whom suffered from severe mental and physical handicaps. This war crime was also perpetrated in direct contravention of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Israel is also a signatory. Moreover, these aforementioned attacks are only two of the hundreds of lethal, indiscriminate attacks launched by Israel in recent days against the 1.8 million Palestinian civilians in Gaza, who are imprisoned there by the occupying Power, with nowhere to flee or seek refuge, with the exception of UNRWA schools, which have clearly not been spared as targets of attacks, and are once again living a nightmare inside a nightmare.

At the same time, in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the occupying Power continues its aggression against the civilian population. Measures of collective punishment, such as violent military raids into Palestinian towns and villages and the mass arrest and detention of Palestinian civilians, many of them youth as well as members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, continue unabated. The use of excessive force against the Palestinian civilian population, including Palestinians protesting against Israel's cold-blooded slaughter of their brothers and sisters in the Gaza Strip, also continues unabated. Israeli occupying forces continue to routinely fire stun grenades, tear gas canisters, rubber-coated steel bullets and even live ammunition at civilian protesters, causing dozens of injuries and causing today the death of Mounir Al-Badarin (21) in Al-Khalil (Hebron).

We call upon the international community to act immediately to end this latest barbaric aggression by Israel against the Palestinian civilian population throughout Occupied Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip. The statement issued by the Security Council on Saturday has clearly failed to compel the occupying Power to halt its military attacks and respond to the calls for a ceasefire. More serious collective action is required, including by the Security Council, to demand a halt to Israel's military operations and to protect civilian lives. Moreover, we call for the international community to ensure an end to Israel's eight-year illegal blockade against the people of Gaza, which has only further exacerbated their misery and suffering. Israeli violations must be condemned and the occupying Power must be held accountable for its continuous aggression. To remain silent in the face of such grave breaches of international law is unacceptable and will only bolster Israel's impunity and allow for the further loss of innocent human life.

Here, I wish to refer to the clear calls for international action and efforts to uphold international legal obligations by the Palestinian leadership, along with the League of Arab States. The Palestinian leadership is continuously conducting meetings aimed at addressing this growing crisis and has taken several steps with the primary objective of ending Israel's bloodshed and war against Palestinian civilians in Gaza and securing international protection of the Palestinian people in accordance with the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. As I write this letter to you, a meeting of Arab ministers of foreign affairs is being held in Cairo to discuss further possible action, including the holding of an emergency meeting of the Security Council to mobilize action on a draft resolution which would call for, inter alia: an immediate ceasefire; provisions to ensure protection for Palestinian civilians in all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as Israel, the occupying Power, has clearly abdicated and gravely breached its responsibilities to ensure the safety and well-being of the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation;

and an investigation of all grave breaches committed by the occupying Power, including the abduction and burning alive of Mohammed Abu Khdier by the occupying Power's illegal terrorist settlers. Moreover, the State of Palestine has called upon the depository of the Geneva Conventions to convene the High Contracting Parties to ensure respect for the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to take measures to provide protection to the Palestinian people living under Israel's cruel and belligerent 47-year military occupation.

This letter is in follow-up to our 506 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 July 2014 (A/ES-10/639-S/2014/489) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 17 July 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to you today to convey that yesterday, Wednesday, 16 July 2014, tragically marked the highest number of child fatalities in a 24-hour period since Israel's barbaric aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip began 10 days ago. According to reports, the Israeli occupying forces killed 23 Palestinians yesterday, including 3 women and 9 children — 7 boys and 2 girls.

Among the dead were Ismail (age 9), Ahed (age 10), Mohammed (age 10) and Zakariya (age 10), brothers and cousins in the Baker family, who were murdered by the occupying forces, who fired at them as they were playing on the beach in Gaza City. The number of children killed by such Israeli war crimes in Gaza in the recent period now stands at 47. The killing of these young boys was witnessed by many journalists on the scene. One journalist, Peter Beaumont of *The Guardian*, who witnessed the attack, stated the following:

> The first projectile hit the sea wall of Gaza City's little harbour just after four o'clock. As the smoke from the explosion thinned, four figures could be seen running, ragged silhouettes, legs pumping furiously along the wall. Even from a distance of 200 metres, it was obvious that three of them were children.
>
> Jumping off the harbour wall, they turned on to the beach, attempting to cross the short distance to the safety of the Al-Deira hotel, base for many of the journalists covering the Gaza conflict.
>
> They waved and shouted at the watching journalists as they passed a little collection of brightly coloured beach tents, used by bathers in peacetime.
>
> It was there that the second shell hit the beach, those firing apparently adjusting their fire to target the fleeing survivors. As it exploded, journalists standing by the terrace wall shouted: "They are only children." In the space of

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40 seconds, four boys who had been playing hide-and-seek among the fishermen's shacks on the wall were dead.

In addition to the killing of the four boys, yesterday, another four Palestinians were killed when Israeli strikes targeted them near Al-Katiba mosque west of Khan Younis. A small girl, Yasmin Al-Astal (age 4), a boy, Osama Al-Astal (age 6) and Raqiyya Al-Astal (age 70) were among the dead, and many others were injured. In another war crime yesterday, a missile was fired from an Israeli drone at a civilian taxi in Bani Suheila, west of Khan Younis, killing several members of yet another Palestinian family. The family was on its way home from visiting a hospitalized family member who had been injured in an Israeli air strike days prior. Ibrahim Ramadan Abu Daqqa (age 10), his brother Amro Ramadan Abu Daqqa (age 25) and their sister Madeline Abu Daqqa (age 27), a pregnant mother of three, died along with their elderly grandmother, Khadra Abu Daqqa, all killed instantly by the wanton and deliberate attacks being perpetrated by the occupying Power.

In addition to the cold-blooded killing of these Palestinian civilians, many more have been killed and more than 1,700 have been injured by over 1,800 Israeli airstrikes thus far against the besieged Gaza Strip. Moreover, in the past 10 days, 695 homes have been completely destroyed, another 640 homes have been partially destroyed and 81 schools have been destroyed or damaged, along with three hospitals and five health centres; this is exacerbating the health crisis in Gaza, where there is a dire and growing need for medicine and medical equipment, already in short supply owing to the blockade. Religious sites also continue to be hit by Israeli airstrikes, including 3 mosques that have been completely destroyed and another 64 mosques that have been seriously damaged. Moreover, more than 22,600 people have been displaced and more than 900,000 people have been affected by the destruction of electricity, water and sanitation infrastructure.

In addition to the rampage of killing and destruction, the culture of Israeli incitement and hatred continues to intensify, deliberately aimed at terrorizing and causing harm to our people. Among the many examples of this are the condemnable actions by Israeli citizens in the town of Sderot, who have set up lounge chairs and couches on a hilltop to watch the bombs rain down on the Gaza Strip, eating popcorn while cheering the death of Palestinian women and children. Members of the Israeli Government also continue to incite and call for the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. In just one abhorrent example, Ayelet Shaked, a member of the "Jewish Home" party, issued a call on Facebook to ethnically cleanse the land, declaring that "the entire Palestinian people is the enemy". She advocated their complete destruction, "including its elderly and its women", adding that they must be slaughtered, otherwise they might give birth to more "little snakes".

Moreover, many Israelis continue to post hate-filled comments against Palestinians on social media outlets, inciting further violence and terror against our people. After yesterday's killing of four boys by the occupying Power, Israelis posted racist, vulgar rants all over social media, including, for example: "it's a shame it wasn't 400,000 dead kids", "have more of them killed like cockroaches, go away", and "I hope all of you die, stinking people, garbage Arabs." We condemn in the strongest terms such incitement, provocations and calls for violence against the Palestinian people. We call on the international community to strongly condemn all such forms of Israeli incitement, as well as the hate crimes that continue to be

perpetrated against Palestinian civilians, and to compel Israel to take action against perpetrators and bring them to justice.

While the Palestinian leadership welcomed the humanitarian ceasefire called for yesterday by the United Nations, more must be done to stop this aggression and alleviate the humanitarian hardships of the Palestinian people in Gaza. We express hope that ongoing efforts by all concerned parties, with whom President Mahmoud Abbas is actively engaged, will bring about a permanent ceasefire in order to avert the loss of more innocent human life. At the same time, we reiterate our urgent call to the Security Council to uphold its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and to undertake action to bring an end to this Israeli aggression and protect the Palestinian civilian population from Israel's crimes. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for all of its violations of international law and international humanitarian law. Moreover, the 8-year-old illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza must be lifted in order to end the socioeconomic deprivation of and humanitarian toll on our people. The international community, in particular the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, is also duty-bound to ensure compliance by the occupying Power. The history of the Palestinian people has already been marked by indescribable trauma, terror and loss, a result of Israel's 47-year-old occupation. It is high time for the international community to rectify this injustice by acting with urgency and conscience to bring an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of the occupying Power and allow them to achieve their rights and live as a free people in their own independent State.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 507 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 14 July 2014 (A/ES-10/640-S/2014/491) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
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